

North State Region

Shasta County

EDD America's Job Center of CaliforniaSM, Redding



After serving in the U.S. Marine Corps for eight years, Martin Berkey landed a government job in San Diego. But family issues forced him and his wife to move to Northern California, and Martin started looking for a job. Adding to the urgency, Martin and his wife had a baby on the way.

Martin turned to the California Employment Development Department's (EDD) America's Job Center of CaliforniaSM (AJCC) office in Redding. Disabled Veteran Outreach Program specialist Rick Partridge worked closely with Martin in his job search. After struggling to find work and a way to support his family, Martin's life suddenly turned around. "Everything started falling into place," said Martin.

With Rick's support and guidance, Martin loaded his profile and documents onto the USAJOBS website. Rick also helped him fill out his hiring package. Martin ended up landing a job as supply technician with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, a job he says he plans to keep for life. "Now I have a career where everything I've done leading up to this matters," Martin said.

Today, Martin and his wife are new homeowners and new parents to a 3-month-old boy. Martin praised Rick Partridge at the Redding AJCC for helping him get on the right path, and he now tells everyone looking for a job to go to the Redding office for job search assistance.

"I'm very grateful for all the help that Rick has given me," said Martin. "And this truly was a life changing experience, not only for myself, but for my entire family."

Butte County
Alliance for Workforce Development One-Stop, Oroville

Nicholas Rucker came to the Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD) One-Stop, and Employment Development Department's partner agency in Oroville, after being laid off from a short-term job. He was at a loss on how to find a job that would give him more stability.

Without a high school diploma and a limited work history, Nicholas faced obstacles, but found help with the staff at the AFWD One-Stop, who worked to build up Nicholas' experience. "By participating in an internship, Nicholas was able to gain confidence in the fact that he is employable, and that he could discuss his barriers with an employer," said career counselor Cathie Tirri.

With Cathie's help, Nicholas landed an internship at the Stapleton-Spence Packing Company in Gridley, a leading packer of prune concentrates, purees, juices, and other dried fruits that provides products to all 50 states and exports to 30 countries worldwide. During the internship, Nicholas learned job skills needed for a machine operator position.

His can-do attitude paid off. Nicholas impressed his supervisor so much that what started out as an internship soon turned into a full-time job. Stapleton-Spence chose Nicholas to participate in the company's On the Job training program, where he continues to work and earn high praise from supervisors.

Cathie said Nicholas is a great example to others who are discouraged and ready to give up. "Research the employer – what are they looking for in an employee?" she said. "Then be that employee, be happy to go to work, be determined to learn, give 100 percent. Don't give up, it takes time!"